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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

March 6, 1974

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Border Incidents Blamed on Austrian Provocations

Rude Pravo on March 5 denied that a Czechoslovak jet trainer buzzed an Austrian helicopter and violated Austrian airspace on March 1. Prague's version of the incident is that a Czechoslovak patrol plane signalled the Austrian craft that it was near the border, after which the Austrian flew away. The paper said there are frequent cases "in which Austrian helicopters stop directly over the Czechoslovak border and then fly back," adding that such "testings of the vigilance" of Czechoslovak border guards is purely provocative.

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POLAND

Cleansing the Augean Stable

Shovel in hand, the Gierek regime has launched a fresh effort to dig out from under a smothering pile of old laws and regulations. On March 5 a government spokesman unveiled a plan to draft some 100 new laws covering various sectors of Polish life. To be ready by 1980, the laws will replace some 250 acts that have accumulated over the past 30 years. Meanwhile, a related campaign against antiquated and redundant ministerial edicts will continue. Over the past three years, 63,000 out of 84,000 regulations issued by various ministers have been rescinded.

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